

The world and the American people, though, responded to the earthquake with generosity. To date, the United States has contributed billions to recovery efforts, along with donors from around the world.

The Assessing Progress in Haiti Act, which was a bipartisan effort with Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN and was signed into law 3 years ago, provides us critical oversight to ensure that aid continues in the most effective way possible.

Unfortunately, more work needs to be done. Haiti continues to be struck by natural disasters, including severe drought and devastating effects of Hurricane Matthew in 2016.

WE ARE MAKING A MISTAKE IF WE REPEAL OBAMACARE

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the Affordable Care Act has improved the health care and financial security of every American, regardless of where he or she gets health insurance.

Healthcare costs have been growing at the slowest rate in more than 50 years. Seniors in the so-called Medicare doughnut hole have saved more than \$23 billion on their prescription drugs. Every American woman can rest easier knowing that women are no longer charged more than men for the same coverage. And 137 million Americans with private insurance now receive free preventive services.

Despite this remarkable progress, the majority has made it their mission to destroy the Affordable Care Act, no matter the cost, and those costs would extend far beyond the healthcare system.

A recent report found that repeal would cause just New York to lose more than 130,000 jobs in 2019 alone.

The Affordable Care Act has reduced the burden of healthcare costs for hard-working families not only in New York, but across the Nation; and it is those Americans for whom repeal would be so devastating.

We are making a mistake if we repeal ObamaCare.

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SUPPORT OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

(Mr. EVANS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I stood in the well of this House some days ago, when I was sworn in, and basically said that I am not naive.

Today, I rise in support of the Affordable Care Act and oppose any effort to repeal it, which just took place. Since the ACA was enacted in 2010, the uninsured rate in Pennsylvania has fallen by 37 percent. Additionally, millions

more Pennsylvanians, who would otherwise be uninsured, have coverage with an employer, Medicaid, individual market, or Medicare coverage as a result of the new protections provided by the law.

No matter what lens you look through, Pennsylvanians and individuals throughout our Nation have better health coverage and care today as a result of the ACA. Let us keep moving forward and help our communities have healthcare access, quality, and affordability.

Recently, our Pennsylvania Governor, Tom Wolf, sent a letter to Majority Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY to underscore the importance of furthering access to care, keeping prices affordable and spending in check, and improving health care for those in our home State of Pennsylvania.

Just in Pennsylvania alone, we have had over 670,000 individuals who have enrolled in HealthChoices, Pennsylvania's mandatory managed care Medicaid program. That is 670,000 individuals who previously did not have access to quality of care.

We do not need the rhetoric of repeal and replace.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
Harrisburg, PA, December 20, 2016.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN MCCARTHY: Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on the critically important conversation about the future of health care in our country. As Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I am immensely proud of the work we have done to further access to care, keep prices affordable and spending in check, and improve health outcomes since my administration began tackling health care as a top priority.

One of my first decisions as Governor was to expand Medicaid to individuals up to 138 percent of Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Since that decision was made in February 2015, more than 670,000 individuals have enrolled in HealthChoices, Pennsylvania's mandatory managed care Medicaid program. That's 670,000 Pennsylvanians that previously did not have access to quality care, if they had access to care at all. Total program enrollment now tops 2.8 million Pennsylvanians. U.S. Census data shows that the commonwealth's uninsured rate has dropped from 10.2 percent in 2010 to 6.4 percent in 2015, and state General Fund costs have been reduced by more than \$500 million as a result of Medicaid expansion.

Even before the passage of the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid was the largest single payer in the United States for behavioral health services, including mental health and substance use services. In the midst of an exploding heroin use and opioid abuse epidemic that is gripping Pennsylvania and the nation, the role that Medicaid plays in addressing this epidemic cannot be understated. More than 3,500 Pennsylvanians died from heroin and opioid-related overdoses last year and that number is expected to rise again in 2016. However, in the first year of Pennsylvania's Medicaid expansion, almost 63,000 newly eligible Medicaid enrollees accessed drug and alcohol treatment. Demands on the treatment system are growing by the day but Medicaid expansion has opened the door to treatment that otherwise would not be available, much less affordable, to those without insurance.

Of course, the benefits of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) are not limited to those with Medicaid. The ACA has had far-reaching positive impacts on every community in Pennsylvania. In 2016, more than 439,000 people had selected health coverage through the Marketplace.

Seventy six percent of those Pennsylvanians received subsidies to make those plans more affordable. In 2016, 60 percent of those enrollees could obtain coverage for \$100 or less after tax credits. For a family, that may be the difference between choosing to pay for food for dinner or having stable health insurance. In addition, several pieces of the ACA, including the provision that allows children to remain on their parents' insurance until age 26 and the provision that requires coverage of pre-existing conditions, have made the benefits of health insurance coverage more enticing than ever before.

Nonprofits that have historically served as the safety nets of our health care system saw some relief with the passage of the ACA. For many, this meant they could finally bill for some of the services that they've typically provided for free for individuals who are uninsured. To shift the burden back on to these providers to serve an enormous influx of people who would lose access to insurance under an ACA repeal is doing a disservice to our nonprofit partners and our communities. The upheaval would be instant and real and would devastate families that have finally been able to set aside health coverage from their list of daily worries.

I respectfully ask that you carefully consider the needs of the people as you move forward with discussions about the future of the ACA. All too often we get swept up in the politics and financial impacts to large businesses and big political donors and forget that these are real people, who suffer from real diseases and every day maladies. Americans need real, meaningful health care coverage. They need options that are affordable, easy to understand, responsive to their needs, and available immediately—with no lapse in coverage. They need leadership and compassion and solutions—and together, we can provide them with all of those things.

I look forward to future conversations. Thank you again for the opportunity to contribute to this incredibly important dialogue.

Sincerely,

TOM WOLF,
Governor.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARRETT). The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to clause 11 of rule X, clause 11 of rule I, and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, of the following Members of the House to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:

Mr. CRAWFORD, Arkansas
Mr. GOWDY, South Carolina
Ms. STEFANIK, New York

OATH OF OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, given that last week I took the oath of